



Mandatory Recurring COVID-19 Testing for Long Term Care (LTC) Vendors

The regulatory definition of vendor is “any individual who is not employed by the facility but provides direct services to one or more facility residents.”

3201 Skilled and Intermediate Care Nursing Facilities, 3225 Assisted Living Facilities and 3230 Rest (Residential) Home Regulations require vendors who have not previously tested positive for COVID-19 receive a baseline COVID-19 test within two weeks of the effective date of this regulation. In addition, vendors must be retested consistent with Division of Public Health (DPH) guidance for the duration of the public health emergency. At this time, the DPH is requiring weekly (once every seven days) testing of LTC vendors.

LTC vendors must develop policies and procedures to address the various aspects of mandatory reoccurring COVID-19 testing. For example, policies and procedures must address aspects such as which method the vendor has chosen to complete the testing, what to do if a staff member refuses testing (staff refusing testing will not be permitted to provide care in a LTC facility), addressing COVID-19 positive test results and how the vendor will coordinate with the LTC facility regarding the results. LTC vendors can use any of the following options to comply with the mandatory reoccurring testing requirements:

Option 1	<u>Coordinate with a LTC facility:</u> LTC vendors can coordinate with a LTC facility to be included in the LTC facility testing using a PCR testing methodology.
Option 2	<u>Attend community-based testing events:</u> Appointments at community-based testing events are available throughout the state. Results from the testing events using the Curative test are e-mailed to the e-mail address provided at registration. In addition to press releases, community-based testing sites can be found at the following links: https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/testing/ https://delaware.curativeinc.com/welcome



Option 3	<p><u>Test staff using state resources:</u> A LTC vendor can submit a resource request form to the State Health Operations Center for nasal pharyngeal (NP) / oral pharyngeal (OP) / anterior nares swabs. To complete this testing, the LTC vendor must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• obtain a practitioner order for each staff member COVID-19 testing• have a healthcare professional obtain a NP, OP or anterior nares specimen for each staff member that will be providing service in a LTC facility. <p>After the specimens have been collected the LTC vendor can deliver the specimens to their private lab or the Division of Public Health Laboratory in Smyrna for testing. The results will be sent to the ordering practitioner.</p> <p>Public Health Laboratory 30 Sunnyside Road, Smyrna, DE 19977 Deposit / drop off flap is available for drop off 24 hours a day / 7 days a week. Sample processing is conducted 7 days a week.</p>
Option 4	<p><u>Test staff using private resources:</u> A LTC vendor can choose to use a private lab for testing through resources set up by the vendor. The LTC vendor will be responsible for all associated costs.</p>

****Test results from any of these testing methods can be shared with multiple LTC facilities.